Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. Out of these, 148 cases were disposed of and the remaining 53 cases were pending with the BIFR at various stages of enquiry. Cases of 66 companies out of 148 were recomended by the BIFR for winding up to the concerned High Court under section 20(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. Rehabilitation schemes were sanctioned/approved in the cases of 20 mills, cases of 43 mills were dismissed as non maintainable, cases of 3 mills turned positive during enquiry and 16 mills were declared no longer sick.

(c) Sickness/closer of mills can generally be attributed to small and uneconomic size of the mill, inadequate availability and high cost of raw material, technological obsolescence, costly and inadequate availability of grid power, high capital cost, managerial problems etc.

Decline in Export of Products

969. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various items which arc beign exported from India show a declining trend in the quantity of exports;

(b) if so, the details of such exported items which show a declining trend in the export price; and

(c) the details of the price rates of such items for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) India's exports during 2000-01 are valued at US $ 441.03.77 Million as compared to the US $ 36805.35 Million during the year 1999-2000, thereby, achieving export growth rate of 19.83% which was higher than the target of 18% set for the year 2000-01.

As per provisional data of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistic (DGCI&S), Calcutta, out of the 93 principal commodities of exports only in respect of 6 items *viz.* Rice (Other than basmati), Tobacco, manufactured and unmanufactured, Cashew,

Oil meals and Ground Nuts, the quantity of exports have declines during 2000-01 as compared to 1999-2000. However, the unit value of exports, in rupee terms, has not declined in respect of all these items, except for Cashew & Ground Nuts during the same period.

Discussion with State Governments on WTO meet

970. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference is proposed to be held at Doha later this year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold formal discussion with political parties and State Governments as to what stand has to be taken in the proposed conference; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The 4th WTO Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held from 9th—13th November 2001 at Doha, Qatar.

(b) and (c) The Government have continuously been engaged in active consultations on WTO issues with all stakeholders including Political Parties and the State Governments. Various initiatives of the Government in this regard include national level consultations with the representatives of all Political Parties and with the State Food and Agriculture Ministers in September, 2000, discussions with the Hon'ble Members in the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee related to Department of Commerce held in February 2001, Workshop on WTO issues for all Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of States and Union Territories in March 2001, Conference of the Chief Ministers on WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Food Management held on 21.5.2001, and specific presentations by Government officials on WTO issues in the various Seminars and Workshops at various places in the country. Another workshop on WTO issues for the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of Governments of all States & Union Territories has been held on 26th